

O 242303Z AUG 98
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8902
INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
NSC WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
CJCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 002600

JOINT STAFF FOR DIR, DIR-J3, DIR-J5
SECDEF FOR PK/HA, ISA, AFR
NSC FOR JWILSON AND LHAWLEY

E.O.12958: DECL: 8/24/08
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [SU](#)
SUBJECT: UN: COUNCIL REVIEWS SUDAN LETTER OF PROTEST
ABOUT U.S. ATTACK

REF: A) STATE 154714 B) STATE 154715

CLASSIFIED BY MARK MINTON, POLITICAL COUNSELOR;
REASON: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

¶1. (C) ON AUGUST 24, COUNCIL PRESIDENT TURK (SLOVENIA) NOTED RECEIPT OF A LETTER FROM SUDANESE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RORIC CONDEMNING THE AUGUST 20 DESTRUCTION OF THE EL-SHIFA PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORY BY U.S. MISSILES (REF A). AMBASSADOR BURLEIGH EXPLAINED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS THE JUSTIFICATIONS UNDERLYING AMERICAN USE OF FORCE AGAINST THE SUDANESE FACILITY (SEE PARA 2 - TEXT OF BURLEIGH STATEMENT). BAHRAIN PERMREP BUALLAY CONDEMNED ALL ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, INCLUDING THE RECENT BOMBINGS IN NAIROBI AND DAR ES SALAAM, SAYING SUCH COWARDLY AGGRESSION ONLY SERVED TO UNDERMINE PREVIOUSLY ACHIEVED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS AS WELL AS CAUSE NEEDLESS SUFFERING AMONG INNOCENT CIVILIANS. BUALLAY NOTED THAT SINCE ALL THE DETAILS OF THE AUGUST 20 ATTACK ON THE SUDANESE FACTORY WERE NOT KNOWN, THE COUNCIL SHOULD SEEK ADDITIONAL TIME FOR REFLECTION AND FURTHER STUDY BEFORE ADVOCATING SPECIFIC ACTION. BUALLAY ALSO CALLED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO COORDINATE POLICY AGAINST TERRORISM. THERE WERE NO OTHER COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS.

¶2. (C) TEXT OF STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BURLEIGH CONCERNING U.S. ACTIONS ON AUGUST 20:

BEGIN TEXT.

MR. PRESIDENT, I THINK BY NOW ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL HAVE READ THE LETTER WE ASKED TO HAVE CIRCULATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER REPORTING THAT WE HAVE EXERCISED OUR RIGHT OF SELF DEFENSE IN RESPONDING TO TERRORIST ATTACKS AND CONTINUING THREATS AGAINST OUR EMBASSIES AND CITIZENS AROUND THE WORLD.

AS A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, I JUST WANTED TO ELABORATE A LITTLE MORE INFORMALLY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST FRIDAY, SO YOU ALL CAN HEAR IT FROM US, FIRST HAND, AND NOT FROM SOME OTHER SOURCE.

THE PRESIDENT DECIDED TO LAUNCH THESE STRIKES BASED ON CREDIBLE AND COMPELLING EVIDENCE, ACCUMULATED OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS, THAT THE TARGETED FACILITIES, AND THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM, POSED A DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF U.S. CITIZENS.

THE THREE TERRORIST BASES AT KHOST, AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED A REFUGE FOR TERRORISTS AND WAS A CENTER FOR THEIR FUNDING, TRAINING AND TRAVEL.

IN ADDITION TO THE AUGUST 7 BOMBINGS OF OUR EMBASSIES IN KENYA AND TANZANIA, WE HAVE GOOD EVIDENCE OF AT

LEAST 18 OTHER SPECIFIC ACTS OF TERROR AND VIOLENCE PLANNED OR CARRIED OUT IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SITES WE HAVE JUST TARGETED.

THESE ACTS RANGE FROM THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT MUBARAK; THE MACHINE GUNNING OF MORE THAN 60 INNOCENT EUROPEAN TOURISTS AND EGYPTIANS IN LUXOR; A CAR BOMB AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN PAKISTAN THAT KILLED MORE THAN 20 EGYPTIANS AND PAKISTANIS; CONSPIRACY TO KILL U.S. SERVICEMEN IN YEMEN, EN ROUTE TO "OPERATION RESTORE HOPE;" PLOTS TO BLOW UP SIX U.S. AIRLINERS IN THE PACIFIC AND TO KILL THE POPE; ATTACKS ON UN PEACEKEEPERS IN SOMALIA; ATTACKS ON U.S. AND SAUDI TRAINING FACILITIES, AND ON AND ON.

BIN LADIN'S NETWORK HAS PUBLICLY AND REPEATEDLY PRONOUNCED A CLEAR AND VIOLENT ANTI-U.S. AGENDA, RANGING FROM HIS "DECLARATION OF WAR" AGAINST THE UNITED STATES IN AUGUST 1996 TO HIS THREATS OVER THE WEEKEND, CLAIMING HE WILL CAUSE "THOUSANDS OF DEATHS."

ON THURSDAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON LAID OUT FOUR REASONS WHY HE ORDERED THIS ACTION:

-- (1) WE HAVE CONVINCING EVIDENCE THESE GROUPS PLAYED THE KEY ROLE IN THE EMBASSY BOMBINGS IN KENYA AND TANZANIA;

-- (2) THESE GROUPS HAVE EXECUTED TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST AMERICANS IN THE PAST;

-- (3) WE HAVE COMPELLING INFORMATION THEY WERE PLANNING MORE ATTACKS ON OUR CITIZENS AND OTHERS, WITH THE INEVITABLE COLLATERAL CASUALTIES WE SAW SO TRAGICALLY IN AFRICA; AND

-- (4) WE HAD URGENT INFORMATION THAT THEY WERE ABOUT TO ACQUIRE CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

ON THIS LATTER POINT, LET ME EXPLAIN THAT WE WERE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY STRONG EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT A SITE OUTSIDE OF KHARTOUM -- IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE USAMA BIN LADEN NETWORK -- WAS INVOLVED IN AN EFFORT TO PRODUCE THE DEADLY NERVE AGENT VX. OUR INTELLIGENCE OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAS INDICATED THAT THE BIN LADEN NETWORK HAS BEEN ACTIVELY SEEKING TO ACQUIRE CHEMICAL WEAPONS FOR USE AGAINST UNITED STATES INTERESTS. BIN LADEN HAS EXTENSIVE TIES TO THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT AND ITS INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THE TARGETED SUDANESE FACILITY WAS INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AGENTS. ONE CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE HORROR THESE TERRORISTS WOULD HAVE INFLICTED IF THEY HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO PRODUCE AND EVENTUALLY USE VX -- A SUBSTANCE MUCH MORE POWERFUL AND DEADLY THAN THAT USED IN THE TOKYO SUBWAY ATTACKS.

LET ME ALSO STRESS, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE DID NOT MAKE THE DECISION TO USE FORCE LIGHTLY. OUR FIRST PREFERENCE, AS IN OTHER SUCH CASES, WOULD HAVE BEEN TO BRING THE TERRORISTS TO JUSTICE IN A COMPETENT COURT OF LAW, AND TO SHUT DOWN THEIR FACILITIES AND TURN THEM OVER TO MORE LEGITIMATE USES.

WE TRIED TO DO THIS THROUGH CONTACTS WITH RELEVANT LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN AFGHANISTAN AND SUDAN. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON PERSONALLY RAISED THIS MATTER WITH TALIBAN LEADERS IN KABUL. ONLY AFTER WE EXHAUSTED DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS -- AND AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT WE FACED NEW ATTACKS AGAINST US AND OTHERS -- DID WE HAVE TO ACT.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMIND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF A UN DECLARATION ON TERRORISM, ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS DURING THE 49TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1994. ARTICLE 5 OF THAT DOCUMENT DECLARES THAT STATES MUST FULFIL THEIR OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, AND GOES ON TO LIST WHAT THOSE OBLIGATIONS ARE:

-- "TO REFRAIN FROM ORGANIZING, INSTIGATING, FACILITATING, FINANCING, ENCOURAGING OR TOLERATING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND TO TAKE APPROPRIATE PRACTICAL MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES ARE NOT USED FOR TERRORIST INSTALLATIONS OR TRAINING CAMPS."

IN CONCLUSION, I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT ALL STATES HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PREVENT TERRORISTS FROM USING THEIR TERRITORY OR FACILITIES TO PLAN AND COMMIT ACTS OF TERROR. IN ADDITION TO THE DECLARATION CITED, THERE ARE 11 INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM CONVENTIONS THAT PROHIBIT THIS.

STATES THAT FAIL TO UPHOLD THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO PREVENT TERRORISM SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE THE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO DEFEND OURSELVES.

END TEXT.

RICHARDSON